

ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION TO CARRY OUT AGREEMENT WITH THE CHOCTAWS AND CHICKASAWS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

A COPY OF A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR SUBMITTING AN ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION TO CARRY OUT AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CHOCTAWS AND CHICKASAWS.

FEBRUARY 20, 1903.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, February 19, 1903.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, copy of a communication from the Secretary of the Interior of the 18th instant submitting an estimate of appropriation for inclusion in the general deficiency bill to carry out the provisions of section 72 of the supplemental agreement with the Choctaws and Chickasaws, ratified by act of July 1, 1902 (32 Stat., pp. 641-657), as follows:

For the actual and necessary expenses of making the forty-dollar per capita payment to the Chickasaws, as provided in section seventy-two of the Choctaw and Chickasaw agreement ratified by the act of July first, nineteen hundred and two (Thirty-second Statutes, six hundred and forty-one), to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, five thousand dollars.

Respectfully,

L. M. SHAW, *Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 18, 1903.

SIR: The Department is in receipt of a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, transmitting a report from the acting United States Indian inspector for the Indian Territory, recommend-

ing the insertion of an item in the general deficiency bill to carry out the provision of section 72 of the supplemental agreement with the Choctaws and Chickasaws, ratified by act of Congress approved July 1, 1902 (32 Stat., 641), which provides for the payment of \$40 to each citizen of the Chickasaw Nation immediately after the approval of his enrollment and right to participate in the distribution of tribal property.

Said item is as follows:

For the actual and necessary expenses of making the forty-dollar per capita payment to the Chickasaws as provided in section seventy-two of the Choctaw and Chickasaw agreement ratified by the act of July first, nineteen hundred and two (Thirty-second Statutes, page six hundred and forty-one), to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, five thousand dollars.

The acting inspector reports that he is advised that the roll containing the names of 3,997 Chickasaw Indians has already been approved by the Department, and that 450 names are ready to be transmitted to the Department for its action, and that in a short time 600 or 700 more names will be forwarded.

The Commissioner concurs in the recommendation that an appropriation of \$5,000 be made for the purpose indicated. It is quite manifest under the circumstances that it will be absolutely necessary to have additional funds to make such payment, and I have therefore to request that you will transmit this estimate to Congress for appropriate action.

A copy of the report of the acting inspector, also copy of the communication of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, are inclosed herewith.

Respectfully,

E. A. HITCHCOCK, *Secretary.*

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, February 18, 1903.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a communication from J. W. Zevely, acting United States Indian inspector for the Indian Territory, dated the 30th ultimo, and addressed to you, in which he refers to the \$40 per capita payment to the Chickasaw Nation, provided for in section 72 of the agreement with the Choctaws and Chickasaws ratified by the act of July 1, 1902 (32 Stats., 641). That section is as follows:

There shall be paid to each citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, immediately after the approval of his enrollment and right to participate in distribution of tribal property, as herein provided, the sum of forty dollars. Such payment shall be made under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, and out of the balance of the "arrears of interest" of five hundred and fifty-eight thousand five hundred and twenty dollars and fifty-four cents, appropriated by the act of Congress approved June twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, entitled "An act for the protection of the people of the Indian Territory, and for other purposes," yet due to the Chickasaws and remaining to their credit in the Treasury of the United States; and so much of such moneys as may be necessary for such payment are hereby appropriated and made available for that purpose, and the balance, if any there be, shall remain in the Treasury of the United States, and be distributed per capita with the other funds of the tribes. And all acts of Congress or other treaty provisions in conflict with this provision are hereby repealed.

I have consulted with the United States Indian agent, Union Agency, Ind. T., and also with the governor of the Chickasaw Nation, both of whom are now in this city, upon this subject, and understand that the arrangement is to make this payment on the 1st of April next. The agent advises that the work incident to this business will necessitate additional clerical and miscellaneous expenses which the present appropriation applicable for such purposes will not be sufficient to cover, and concurs with the inspector in recommending that an appropriation of \$5,000 be obtained. I therefore respectfully recommend that the matter be presented to Congress and that it be requested to insert the following item in the general deficiency bill, namely:

For the actual and necessary expenses of making the forty-dollar per capita payment to the Chickasaws as provided in section seventy-two of the Choctaw and Chickasaw agreement ratified by the act of July first, nineteen hundred and two (Thirty-second Statutes, page six hundred and forty-one), to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, five thousand dollars.

Very respectfully,

Commissioner.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

MUSKOGEE, IND. T., *January 30, 1903.*

SIR: I have the honor to invite the attention of the Department to section 72 of the supplemental agreement with the Choctaws and Chickasaws, as ratified by the act of Congress approved July 1, 1902 (32 Stat., 641), as follows:

"There shall be paid to each citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, immediately after the approval of his enrollment and right to participate in distribution of tribal property, as herein provided, the sum of forty dollars. Such payment shall be made under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, and out of the balance of the 'arrear of interest' of five hundred and fifty-eight thousand five hundred and twenty dollars and fifty-four cents, appropriated by the act of Congress approved June twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, entitled 'An act for the protection of the people of the Indian Territory, and for other purposes,' yet due to the Chickasaws and remaining to their credit in the Treasury of the United States; and so much of such moneys as may be necessary for such payment are hereby appropriated and made available for that purpose, and the balance, if any there be, shall remain in the Treasury of the United States, and be distributed per capita with the other funds of the tribes. And all acts of Congress or other treaty provisions in conflict with this provision are hereby repealed."

I am advised by the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes that the Department has already approved the enrollment of 3,997 Chickasaw Indians; that 490 names are now scheduled and ready to be transmitted for the approval of the honorable Secretary, and in a short time 600 or 700 more names will be forwarded.

In order to carry out the provisions of section 72, above quoted, I respectfully recommend that the Indian agent at Union Agency be designated as the disbursing officer, and that the necessary instructions be given to cause him to prepare to make this payment as soon as practicable.

I understand it is the purpose of the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes to open a land office at Tishomingo, the capital of the Chickasaw Nation, for the filing of selections of allotment, such office to open April 1 next.

I believe it will greatly facilitate the making of this per capita payment to have the same take place at that time, when the Indians appear for the purpose of selecting their allotments. It will avoid considerable expense and will also be an incentive to the full-bloods to appear at Tishomingo and select their land. I therefore respectfully recommend that I be instructed to direct the agent to take steps to make this payment, to commence when the land office at Tishomingo is opened, and that steps be taken by the Department to place the necessary funds to his credit for disbursement.

4 APPROPRIATION TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN AGREEMENT.

In this connection I have to respectfully state that the clerical work of this office has so increased that I doubt very much if the agent has sufficient force to make this payment at Tishomingo in a proper manner. It will require some little time to finally complete the same, and necessitate competent clerks and interpreters who must be familiar with the Indians to be paid. The present incidental appropriation in Indian Territory is hardly sufficient to pay the force now employed and the necessary miscellaneous expenses.

I therefore respectfully recommend that Congress be asked to appropriate \$5,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to make this payment and carry out the provisions of section 72 of the act of July 1, 1902.

Very respectfully,

J. W. ZEVELY,

Acting United States Indian Inspector for Indian Territory.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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